

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 SSC-01 EB-07 IO-11 /102 W

----- 033980

R 261000Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1128

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MARSEILLE 0032

FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP ETRD FR KS SF JA

SUBJECT: INCREASE OF CAREER CONSULATES IN MARSEILLE

1. MR. KEIICHI KITABAN, FORMERLY WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY IN ALGIERS CALLED ON ME JANUARY 23 TO ANNOUNCE IMMINENT OPENING OF JAPANESE CONSULATE GENERAL IN MARSEILLE. A CONSUL GENERAL AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN KITABAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. KITABAN DESCRIBED MARSEILLE AS "ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY INTERESTING" AND ASKED IF A DEFINITIVE DATE HAD BEEN MENTIONED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A PRC CONSULATE HERE. I EXPLAINED THAT THE ARRIVAL OF PRC REPRESENTATIVES IN MARSEILLE HAS BEEN HOT AND COLD RUMOR FOR PAST YEAR BUT THAT NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN MADE.

2. ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE RAISED TO THREE THE NUMBER OF NEW CAREER
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POSTS ESTABLISHED IN MARSEILLE IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS, INCLUDING

THOSE OF EGYPT AND REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. A SOUTH KOREAN COMMERCIAL OFFICE WAS OPENED EARLIER IN 1975. THERE ARE NOW THIRTY-ONE CAREER CONSULATES AND THIRTY HONORARY CONSULATES IN MARSEILLE.

COMMENT: KITABAN, WHO HAD ACCESS TO PRC DIPLOMATS IN ALGIERS, MAY KNOW MORE THAN HE APPEARS TO ABOUT CHINESE PLANNING FOR MARSEILLE. ONE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT THAT FOLLOWS ESTABLISHED PATTERN AND MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANCE, WAS RECENT OPENING OF NEW CHINESE RESTAURANT "TIEN TSIN" BY ENGLISH/FRENCH SPEAKING OWNERS "FROM HONG KONG". "TIEN TSIN" PRESENTS TRUE CHINESE MENU (SEVERAL REGIONS) AT LOW PRICE UNLIKE MOST OF ITS MARSEILLE COUNTERPARTS AND HAS CHOICE LOCATION BESIDE MAIRIE.
SIMPSON

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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